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LONDON metro®
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

KYLE REA/METRO

▶ Jillian Kiser, chairwoman of the Young Professionals Group, rocks out at the London Music Club where the Battle of the Bands finalists will hit the stage May 29. The winner of that venue will play Canada Day celebrations in Harris Park.

Got chops?

Every music genre from rock to country welcome in Canada Day-themed contest

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

Got some serious musical chops and looking for a venue to show off some killer material?

Then gear up for battle, as the Young Professionals Group here in London presents The Battle of the Bands.

The musical warfare winner will hit the stage July 1 for Canada Day celebrations in Harris Park.

Between now and May 22, local musicians can submit an MP3 showcasing their talent. Ten finalists will be picked to perform May 29 in an all-ages show at the London Music Hall, with a panel of four judges choosing the winner. Each band is to perform two songs at that gig.

"It's to engage the younger demographic in Canada Day celebrations, but at the same time give them a fun event," said Jillian Kiser, chairwoman of YPG. "We want to see some interesting talent and really entertain younger people."

Kiser said they're bringing in a special emcee, Jeff Cole also known as Jeff Cool, for May 29 — he'll act as a local version of Ryan Seacrest "with a little rap twist," Kiser said.

Young and professional

- The Young Professionals Group is an organization of people aged 22 to 45 to keep in touch with each other.
- Monthly get-togethers are organized at locations in downtown London, with people gathering to talk about everything from politics to pop culture.
- Find them on Facebook for more information.

"It should be a really fun evening. Hopefully, we get a crowd out."

While the contest is for Canada Day, songs don't need to have a patriotic theme to them, Kiser said.

"We're looking for talent."

What they're not looking for? Acts that take things a bit too far — inappropriate lyrics or people taking their clothes off.

"We want rock stars, but we don't want them to go crazy on us," Kiser said.

Entries can be submitted to ypglondon.on.ca@gmail.com or dropped off at Kiser's office, Century 21 at 420 York St.

1 news

Local surgeon performs historic procedure

There's been another world first at the London Health Sciences Centre.

The cardiac-surgery team successfully performed an emergency surgery to repair a hole in a patient's heart caused by a pacemaker malfunction using the DaVinci robot. Normally, this type of surgery would require open-heart surgery.

On Feb. 15, Dr. Bob Kiaii received an emergency page: patient Viola Addison had a hole in her heart, caused by a pacemaker malfunction, that required immediate repair.

"The use of robotic surgery allows us to continually improve our surgery techniques and treat patients who are considered high risk for traditional surgery in a less invasive way," said Kiaii.

After a two-day stay at the hospital, Addison went home. She said the surgery was a "breeze."

"I am not in any pain and I am no longer out of breath," she said. "I don't know where I would be without the surgery — it was something that had to be done."

METRO

Cybermedics

- Surgical robots have been used in London since 1999.
- In 2000, LHSC established Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics for minimally invasive robotic surgeries.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Dr. Bob Kiaii

Canada's youngest-ever elected MP won't need that golf course summer job after all. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

After securing his long-sought majority, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he has no surprises planned. Video at metronews.ca

Follow us on Twitter @themetrolondon

Coast to coast for cancer research

Western students who researched cancer last summer plan to raise funds via cross-country bike trip

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

One recovered from a serious spinal cord injury two years ago, the other is a world-class BMX biker.

Now Western students Nate Hayward, 21, and Tom Hrinivich, 20, are teaming up for a cross-country trip starting next week to raise $20,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

On Monday, they'll fly to B.C. and begin their trip, travelling 200 kilometres — or from here to Toronto — each day for 40 days.

Hayward had to work hard to reach this point after suffering a spinal-cord injury while tree-planting in Marathon, Ont., two years ago. Unsure if he'd even walk again, Hayward battled back and is glad to be on the ride.

Hrinivich, meanwhile, raced BMX bikes for six years, going to the world championships in 2006.

But are they prepared for the trip?

"I know we're going to have times where it's painful and we want to come home, but we'll stick with it," said Hayward.

Follow their progress at xcanada4cancer.ca.

KYLE REA/METRO

▶ Nate Hayward, 21, and Tom Hrinivich, 20, will be hitting the road on a cross-country bike trip next week to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. The pair, both cancer researchers and students at Western, aim to travel the country in 40 days, averaging about 200 kilometres each day.

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THE EMERGENCY CHALLENGE

Do you know what to do in a crisis situation?

Take the challenge, get a grant: This could be us, London.

This week is national Emergency Preparedness Week, and Emergency Management Ontario is also encouraging all Ontarians to take The Emergency Challenge — an emergency preparedness quiz.

Until May 31, individuals can take part in the challenge by visiting ontario.ca/beprepared.

There are three categories: Children (must be at least seven years old), youth and adults.

The challenge consists of five age-appropriate questions about emergency preparedness.

The community that has the highest level of participation will receive a grant from the province.

METRO

Youth vote rocked federal election

KYLE REA/METRO

▶ Yvonne Su, left, and Gracen Johnson, organizers of the original vote mob rally at the University of Guelph, take part in Saturday's vote mob in Victoria Park. It was considered to be the largest one of all, with up to 1,500 people attending.

Western student council member expects groundwork laid in this election campaign to continue into fall provincial vote

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

Monday's federal election campaign was historic not only because of who was voted into office, but what age group did the voting.

Meaghan Coker, outgoing vice-president of university affairs for Western's University Students' Council, said youth across the country were increasingly engaged and interested in this past election.

"It was certainly a landmark election campaign," she said. "It feels as if students, and a generation of youth, really started to engage through a lot of different mediums. In that aspect, it's certainly going to set the standard for future elections."

Coker herself voted late yesterday evening and afterward threw an election party where "everyone who came definitely voted!"

But while a firm foundation was laid heading into yesterday's election, there's still work to be done, particularly among youth not in school, Coker said.

Voter turnout

Comedian Rick Mercer asked those 18-25 years old to do what politicians least expected — namely, vote.

▶ Elections Canada hasn't released youth voter data, but it estimates 61.4 per cent of Canadians voted in yesterday's election.

Students get opportunity to sparkle

More than 500 gifted students from the Thames Valley school district will try to catch the Spark! at a two-day conference at King's University College starting today.

Heart Wisdom: Unlocking Emotional Intelligence is the theme of this inaugural conference with more than 60 presenters, including 30 professors from King's, Western, Toronto and Windsor who will explore ways of knowing and being.

The Spark! conference features more than 100 interactive workshops, including historical re-enactments, exploring brain plasticity, salsa dancing, DJ-ing, musical improvisation and high-level problem-solving in mathematics.

Most of the students are from Thames Valley, although about 60 students will be visiting from Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

METRO

Lucky ducks

▶ **The students** selected to attend are identified as gifted by the Identification Placement and Review Committee or by teachers.

For more local news, visit metronews.ca/london

Liberals will be defeated in fall: Hudak

Ontario's Progressive Conservatives are riding high after their federal cousins won a majority, believing it will work in their favour during this fall's provincial election. Opposition Leader Tim Hudak wasted no time using Monday's election results to club the governing Liberals, saying people in the province voted for a party they knew wouldn't raise their taxes.

Hudak told the legislature people can't afford the high electricity prices and HST imposed by the Liberals, and warned Premier Dalton McGuinty his party will be defeated this fall.

He said "runaway spending Liberal candidates were shown the door last night."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath didn't mention the NDP's stunning showing in the federal election as she attacked McGuinty over energy prices, but several New Democrats were wearing orange ties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Tim Hudak

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NDP SWEEP

Barely legal voter is now MP

They were a motley crew of underdogs with virtually no political experience.

One of them, a 19-year-old, was not only voting in his first election but also became the youngest person ever elected to Canada's Parliament.

▶ Pierre-Luc Dusseault

Pierre-Luc Dusseault, a 19-year-old student of applied politics at the Université de Sherbrooke, now becomes the youngest member of Parliament in Canadian history, according to the House of Commons website.

He surpasses Claude-Andre Lachance, a Trudeau Liberal who was elected at age 20 in 1974.

Two others won francophone ridings despite being accused of struggling in French. One spent a week vacationing in Las Vegas during the campaign.

Many admitted to having low expectations when the writ was dropped.

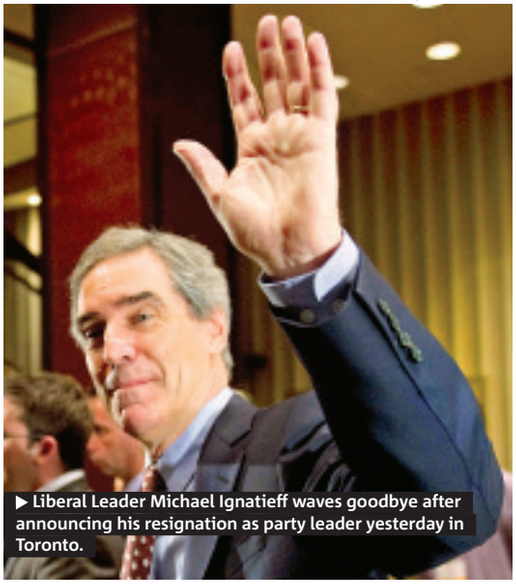
Yet they were among dozens of unlikely Quebec NDP candidates who won Monday. Many will bring impressive backgrounds into Parliament.

Among the newcomers are a former diplomat, a prominent Cree leader and an ex-Liberal MP once considered a shoo-in for a cabinet post.

The McGill Daily reported yesterday that four McGill University students also won for the NDP on Monday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ignatieff resigns, party left in ruins

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS


▶ Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff waves goodbye after announcing his resignation as party leader yesterday in Toronto.

▶ Iggy blames Tory attack ads for demise ▶ NDP merger talks floating

Debate over the Liberal party's future began raging even before Michael Ignatieff announced yesterday that he will resign as leader.

Toronto MP Bob Rae, a likely contender to succeed Ignatieff, triggered much of the talk with a blunt assessment that the decimated party can't avoid discussing the possibility of merging with the ascendant NDP.

Ignatieff weighed in against the idea but acknowledged he won't be calling the shots after leading the Liberals to a bloodbath Monday, in which he even lost his seat.

"I will not be remaining as leader of this party," Ignatieff told red-eyed supporters during an emotional news conference in Toronto.

"I will work out with the party officials the best timing for a departure."

He indicated that he expects his successor will likely be chosen in the fall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's hard to see how the discussion could be avoided."
BOB RAE, ON A POSSIBLE MERGER BETWEEN THE LIBERALS AND NDP

Transparency not an issue for most: Baird

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

Conservative supporters at John Baird's victory party in Ottawa West-Nepean said they're "overjoyed" at the party's showing in the election, but they don't want to be named in print.

"I think this goes to the brilliance of Stephen Harper, John Baird, Jason Kenney and Scott Reid," one said.

But when he learned that media wasn't supposed to be talking to him he asked that his name, which he'd given earlier, not be used in print.

Metroland Media was told "no interviews will be permitted with supporters in attendance," in an email sent by director of communications Chris McCluskey.

Asked what that ban means for transparency in his riding, Baird brushed off the concern.

LEON SWITZER/FOR METRO

▶ John Baird celebrates with supporters after his election win Monday night.

"Well you know there's been a lot of discussion about that. I think the big issues for the Canadian people in election were jobs and the economy," Baird said.

"These are the big priorities in Canada. I think some in the mainstream media put an unusual focus on issues of that nature and I think it's not the priority of the Canadian public," he added.

"These past two days have been great for the cause of democracy and liberty — the killing of Osama bin Laden and the election of the Conservative party to a majority."
TORY SUPPORTER, NAME WITHHELD

Elections Canada still counting ballots

Election 2011 is over, but the vote-counting is not — nor necessarily is the final tally of winners and losers.

Elections Canada says as many as 27 of the country's 71,513 polls did not immediately report results for a variety of reasons.

Elections Canada spokeswoman Diane Benson says that's not unusual and could be attributable to the remoteness of polling areas or simple forgetfulness in reporting the numbers.

The results will likely be coming in through today as officials return to work and will have no impact on the overall result of the election.

Preliminary results show 61.4 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots, compared to 58.8 per cent in 2008.

The 2011 election voter turnout is also greater than occurred in the 2000 and 2004 elections, when 61.2 per cent and 60.9 per cent voted, respectively. But Benson points out the 61.4 per cent is preliminary and may fall a few decimal points due to the expansion of the voters list that occurs on election day.

The final voting results could change in the margins because of two judicial recounts.

One is in Etobicoke Centre, where Liberal incumbent Borys Wrzesnewskyj trailed Tory Ted Opitz by 26 votes, 21,635 to 21,661.

The other recount will be in Nipissing-Timiskaming in northern Ontario, where Conservative Jay Aspin led sitting Liberal Anthony Rota by 14 votes, 15,507 to 15,493. THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more election coverage, go online to metronews.ca

Could Twitter have predicted election?

Now that the election's over, analysts are trying to gauge what impact, if any, Twitter and other social media outlets had on the outcome.

Digital public-affairs strategist Mark Blevis says Twitter likely didn't swing undecided voters because most "tweeps" already knew how they were going to vote.

He adds that Twitter newbies likely got overwhelmed by all the tweet traffic and tuned out.

Tom Vassos of the University of Toronto says the NDP had the most buzz before election day, while his analysis also shows a lot of early negative Twitter sentiment about the Bloc Québécois. THE CANADIAN PRESS

White House seeks answers from Pakistan

U.S. presses Pakistani government on Osama bin Laden's benefactors ◐ Military intelligence comes under scrutiny

Congress may consider cutting the almost $1.3 billion in annual U.S. aid to Pakistan if it turns out the Islamabad government knew where Osama bin Laden was hiding, the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee said yesterday.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, said she wants more details from CIA director Leon Panetta and others about the Pakistani government's role.

Incredulous lawmakers are pressing Pakistan for answers to two simple questions: What did its army and intelligence agents know of bin Laden's whereabouts and when did they know it?

The al-Qaida terrorist leader behind the Sept. 11, 2001 against the United States attacks lived and died in a massive, fortified compound built in 2005 and located on the outskirts of Abbottabad, just kilometres from the capital of Islamabad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mission improbable

The White House said Osama bin Laden was unarmed when he was confronted by U.S. commandos at his Pakistani hideout.

- **Injured** One of bin Laden's wives tried to rush the U.S. assaulters and was shot in the leg.
- **Success** The daring Navy Seal team code-named their target Geronimo.

U.S. Obesity

▶ Michelle Obama dances with students at Alice Deal Middle School in northwest Washington yesterday.

MANUEL BALCE CENETA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady is first to move

U.S. President Barack Obama's wife, Michelle Obama, unveiled her national public awareness campaign, "Let's Move" last year with an aim to eliminate childhood obesity within a generation.

Royal couple take home over honeymoon

It's back to normal routine for Prince William and Kate Middleton as Britain's most glamorous royal couple is spending this week on an island — just not the kind of island everyone expected.

It's not a private honeymoon retreat in the Caribbean or the Seychelles, but Anglesey, a wind-swept spot off northwest Wales where Prince William works as a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot at the Royal Air Force Valley base.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

48

The island measures just 48 kilometres from one end to the other.

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Short-lived relief for markets over Tory majority

Investors move on to more pressing matters Like Mideast turmoil, the U.S. economy, European debt ...

A business-friendly Conservative government, with a firm grip on a majority, and the near obliteration of the separatist Bloc Québécois gave financial markets some cause for comfort yesterday.

But the news failed to inspire gains on the Toronto stock market, which tumbled almost 250 points yesterday as investors looked past the victory and focused on headwinds facing equity markets.

Resource stocks led declines as a stronger U.S. dollar pressured oil and gold prices, which in turn pushed the Canadian dollar down.

Traders were relieved to see a majority win in Monday's election since it removes a degree of uncertainty from the political landscape. But analysts said there were plenty of other things for investors to worry about.

"The Mideast is in turmoil, the U.S. is in turmoil and probably will continue to be as it figures out it has a long-term economic problem. And you have the European debt crisis," said John O'Connell, chief executive of Davis Rea Ltd.

The election cleared the way for the federal budget to be passed. Analysts expect that the Conservatives will retable the budget introduced by Jim Flaherty this spring.

Among its provisions, small businesses would receive a credit of up to $1,000 to offset increases in employment-insurance premiums, and companies would be allowed to write off the cost of new equipment in just two years, faster than normally allowed. However, corporate Canada could face higher bills.

The government had planned to make changes in the way partnerships work that previously allowed for the deferral of corporate tax. Also on the agenda were changes to the rules governing the way dividends are paid. The measures would boost government revenue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Telecommerce

The Conservatives are expected to allow more foreign ownership of Canada's telecom industry to keep it competitive.

- **Philip Huang,** an analyst with financial-services firm UBS, says the government now can push for relaxed foreign-ownership restrictions without support from opposition parties. He predicts it will move on this by the end of the year.
- **The relaxed restrictions** will apply to telecom operators with less than 10 per cent market share, Huang says, which will benefit new wireless players by giving them better access to capital.

Wheel. Dealer

▶ Users of Bixi Toronto will have year-round access to 1,000 bicycles at 80 stations downtown. Bixi was ranked 19th in Time magazine's 50 Best Inventions of 2008.

PAT HEWITT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto cyclists are whistling Bixi

Bixi, the bicycle-sharing system that turned Montreal into a city on wheels, rolled into Toronto yesterday. A runaway success, Bixi launched in May 2009, and within a year had expanded to 5,000 bicycles and 400 stations in downtown Montreal. With systems in 10 cities worldwide, the company last year reported revenue of $33 million and net income of $7 million.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
– 242.14 (13,692.37)	– 0.19¢ (104.98¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Gold contracts
– $2.47 US ($111.05 US)	$4.738 US (– 2.5¢ US)	$1,540.40 US (– $16.70 US)

Ford tops in sales

Ford Canada has reported its best April since 2000, making it the country's top-selling automaker last month. Canadian sales rose nine per cent to 25,548 vehicles from 23,441 in the same month last year. Ford saw car sales rise 33 per cent, while truck sales were up three per cent as higher gas prices drove some consumers to make more fuel-efficient choices.

Meanwhile, sales at Honda Canada fell six per cent to 12,269 units, as the car maker dealt with parts shortages since the March 11 earthquake.

Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. said April sales have broken its all-time record for a single month, with 14,267 units sold, a gain of 14.2 per cent over last year.

Volvo Canada also reported double-digit growth in April, with 705 vehicles sold, up 11.4 per cent from March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bell drops Sun News Network over fee dispute

Sun spokesman Luc Lavoie says the network may complain to the CRTC citing unfair advantage Bell already owns three all-news channels

The Sun News Network is no longer being carried on Bell Satellite TV because there's no fee agreement with owner Quebecor to carry it, Bell says.

The all-news and talk channel launched last month and was removed from Bell's Satellite TV line-up yesterday.

Sun News is still available on Fibe TV, Bell's Internet protocol TV service. But Fibe TV was rolled out only last fall in some Toronto neighbourhoods and would have a smaller pool of viewers for Sun TV than would Bell Satellite.

4,000

An estimated 37,000 viewers across Canada tuned in for Sun News Network's initial half-hour. But by the end of its first week, shows were drawing 4,000 to 5,000 evening viewers.

Despite launching in the middle of a federal election campaign, Sun News Network has so far had little impact on the Canadian news scene.

Dubbed "Fox News North," it drew an estimated 37,000 viewers for its first half-hour, but shows featuring Winnipeg radio host Charles Adler and Ottawa journalist Brian Lilley have seen ratings tumble.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/APPLE INC.

▶ The 2011 iMacs feature Thunderbolt ports that can carry data at speeds 20 times faster than most USB ports.

Thunderbolts and iMacs

Apple's upgraded line of iMacs boasts faster processors, higher-resolution cameras and a new type of data port.

But those aren't the most interesting features of the new desktop computers. Apple's Magic Mouse is making way for the Magic Trackpad, both of which are standard options with the 2011 models.

Apple launched the Magic Trackpad last year. The 12.7-centimetre-square glass surface, backed by aluminum, is a larger version of the trackpad that comes with Apple's MacBooks. Some Mac users prefer the giant touch surface to the Magic Mouse.

The new iMacs also come with Intel quad-core processors, which had been available as an upgrade to the standard dual-core processors of the previous generation. Apple said the new models are up to 70 per cent faster.

The 54.61-centimetre iMac ($1,199) has a single Thunderbolt port, which can carry data at speeds 20 times faster than most USB ports. The 68.58-centimetre iMac ($1,699) has two Thunderbolt ports.

Apple introduced Thunderbolt on MacBook Pro laptops in February. The port was developed by Intel Corp. Apple last revamped its iMacs in October 2009.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PICTURE LAB RATS WITH HEADPHONES

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

What scientists do all day is kind of a mystery.

We imagine they spend their days searching for a cure for cancer or watching the polar ice caps melt.

Not all of them, it turns out. A team of scientists at the University of Kentucky listens to tunes all day.

Hey, they're just like us!

Before you start imagining a bunch of guys with lumpy sweaters and sensible shoes gettin' jiggy with The Black Eyed Peas, remember, these are scientists and there's a serious point to all this.

And that is: After running three decades of hit songs through the computer, Dr. Nathan DeWall, a psychologist at the above-mentioned grooveyard of golden goodies, has discovered a significant trend toward narcissism and hostility in popular music.

"... Dr. Nathan DeWall, a psychologist at the above-mentioned grooveyard of golden goodies, has discovered a significant trend toward narcissism and hostility in popular music."

Not sure he needs a research lab for that ... all he really needs is an iPod and Eminem's Greatest Hits, but he's on to something.

Thirty years ago, everyone was having a good time (Kool & The Gang: Celebration); racial harmony (Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder: Ebony And Ivory); and togetherness (Sister Sledge: We Are Family).

These days, forget about peace and love, it's just about me. Or Justin Timberlake ("I'm bringing sexy back"), or Beyoncé ("It's blazin'. You watch me in amazement"), and Fergie ("It's personal, myself and I.")

As for the bred-in-the-hood surliness of Eminem and his posse, DeWall factored in a control for hip hop so those lyrics don't unfairly dominate his study.

He discovered that although pop music may be dominated by barely weaned puppies like Justin Bieber, it's not all love songs to Dora The Explorer. No one is feeling the love much these days, unless it's love of self. Exhibit A: Keri Hilson's "All eyes on me when I walk in, no question that this girl's a 10."

It's hard to believe things can change so much in a single generation, but guess what happens when the only subject taught in school is self-esteem? Then when you go to college, it's Self-Esteem 101, Advanced Self-Esteem 201, etc.

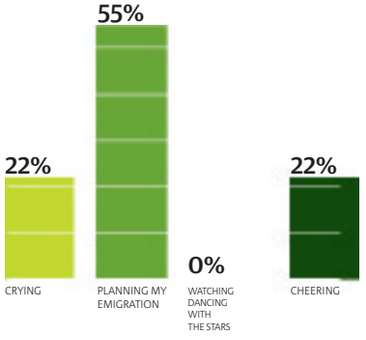
Ergo: Pop self-esteem sells. I don't need a scientist to tell me that. In fact, I don't need anyone to tell me what to think. I'm the greatest writer in the world, and I'll think whatever I feel like thinking. And if you don't like that, remember Cee Lo Green's message in his 2010 Billboard Top 100 hit, F--- You.

Er, I can't actually do that. This is a family newspaper.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

metro life panel **Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll**

How did you spend election night?



Local tweets

- **@forrat schocolat:** First Friday this week on Richmond Row!! Friday 5-9 pm specials, demos, musicians and more, join us won't you!? #ldnont #rrow
- **@jeffsage:** Expressing individually and valuing community I'm happy to say sounds like the #ldnont social media community. #cda30.
- **@DarrenTBennett:** @MarkHominick thank you dude! You and @josealdojunior put the new weight divisions on the map at the weekend! You also rep #LDNOnt big time
- **@SSSCOUNCIL:** Cleaning the office! Your exec are hard at work! #uwo http://t.co/xMgX9Ir
- **@kat_ballin:** Good thing I look great in purple ... #uwo in the fall!
- **@eliothong:** Get ready #UWO for an awesome lounge space coming into the UCC!
- **@jaskanhai:** #ldnont pls stop raining. You're killing the good vibes
- **@thomfraser:** Just saw a woman yelling at a paraplegic lady on the street. Gotta love #ldnont

Worth mentioning

NEW YORK. The best place in the world to be a mom is Norway, where maternal and child mortality rates are low, women's life expectancy and years in school are high, and the average maternity leave is about one year, a new study measuring the well-being of mothers and babies shows.

Australia and Iceland join Norway at the top of Save The Children's 12th annual Mothers Index, released yesterday. Canada ranks 20th, the United States places 31st and Afghanistan is last.

The international non-profit group's ranking analyzes the maternal and child indicators and other published information of 164 countries.

The survey considers Afghanistan the worst place to be a mother, with women having a life expectancy of 45 years — the world's lowest — and one of every 11 women dying in childbirth. One of every five children in the country doesn't live to age five.

By contrast, a typical Norwegian woman lives to be 83 years old, and just one in 175 will lose a child before his or her fifth birthday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder

WEIRD NEWS

Fanning the flames of transit rage

Tempers can flare when your morning commute turns into a delay induced sit-in.

But while many of us tear up our tickets, tweet our frustrations and glare at the teenager blaring his iPod who keeps kicking the seat, a group of Argentinean travellers went a few steps further when it decided to burn down its train.

The rail roasting was ignited Monday, during the morning rush hour commute that brings workers from the suburbs into Buenos Aires. But instead of being glided into the city, passengers were left stranded for 30 minutes after a train derailment.

That's when the rage set in and eight carriages at three commuter stations went up in flames, with violence quickly spreading from the Haedo stop to the nearby stations of Ramos Mejia and Cuidadela.

The angry mob of commuters also forcefully removed train drivers and an inspector from a train and stole ticket boxes from one station. Three passengers were arrested over the incidents, federal police deputy Chief Hugo Matzkin told the Buenos Aires Herald. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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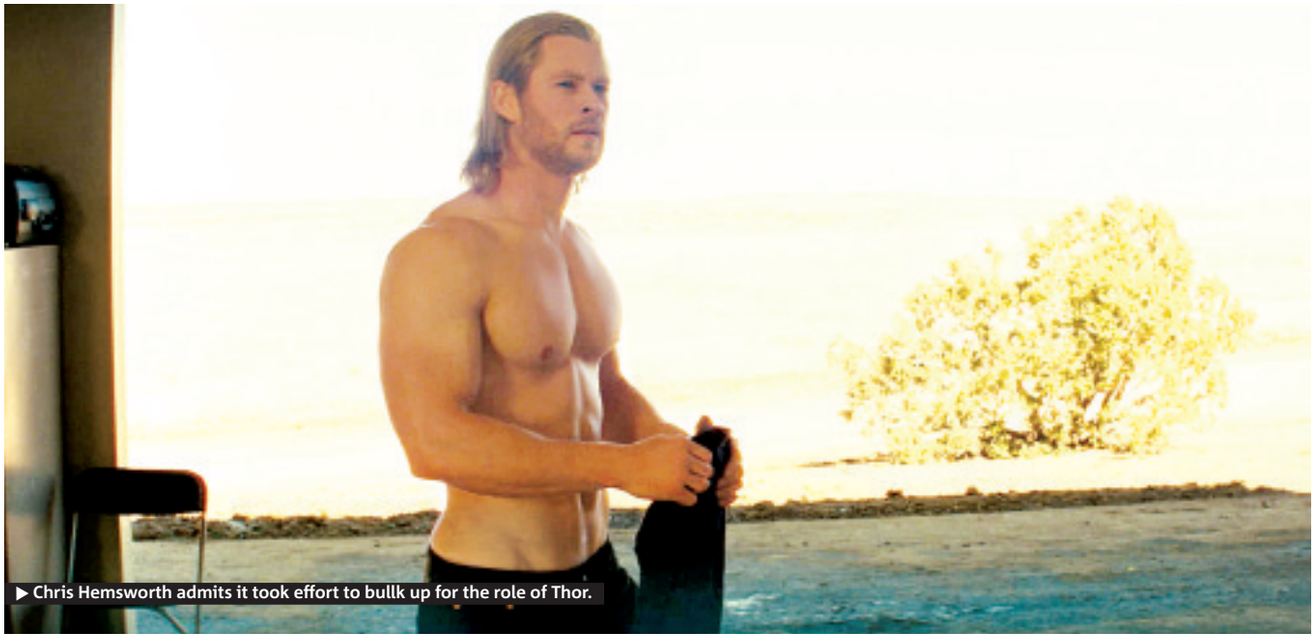

▶ Chris Hemsworth admits it took effort to bullk up for the role of Thor.

Thor looks good in 3-D

Director Kenneth Branagh says the most important part of the film was casting Thor

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Tasked with bringing Thor from the comic book pages to the big screen, director Kenneth Branagh couldn't help but feel a bit daunted.

The scale of the undertaking couldn't help but make you feel that way, he says. "It was very, very challenging, but that was a part of what was attractive," says Branagh.

Luckily, producer and Marvel honcho Kevin Feige was there to keep him on task. "On Day One, I asked Kevin, 'What should I do first?'" Branagh remembers. "And he said, 'The one thing you need to do right now — and until it's finished — is cast Thor. That's it. Just cast Thor.'"

Not an easy task as it turns out, though as the story for the film developed, Branagh found himself circling back to a young actor who had read early in the casting process: Chris Hemsworth.

"You're looking for really a lot tied up in one bundle," Branagh says of the character, the Norse god of thunder who is cast out of Asgard by his father, Odin.

"At one point we said, 'We should go back and meet that very handsome Australian lad who came in.' There was this required quality of an innate, charming confidence that did not spill over into arrogance that meant he would stand up in a scene with Anthony Hopkins."

Of course that's not all Hemsworth had going for him: "When he takes his shirt off there's obviously a wow factor that cannot be denied," Branagh says.

Bulking up enough to earn those accolades wasn't easy for 27-year-old Hemsworth — though it wasn't the weight-lifting that gave him the most trouble.

"The most uncomfortable thing was the eating," Hemsworth says. "I just don't naturally sit at that weight, so I'd have to force-feed myself with ... 20 chicken breasts and rice and steak. All very boring, sort of plain things. That was the most exhausting part of the whole film."

What was daunting for Hemsworth was working with the veteran Hopkins. The younger actor wasn't prepared for Hopkins' brand of humour.

"I remember being on set our first day with Tony and going through the rehearsal, and Tony saying, 'Is that how you're going to do it?' and then going, 'He's kidding, right?'" Hemsworth remembers. "That's a big thing I learned from Tony — have a good time doing it. What should've been the most intimidating experience walking in was the most enjoyable."

As it turns out, Thor wasn't Hemsworth's favourite choice when it comes to superheroes — not that he isn't thrilled to play him.

"I would run around the house pretending to be (Superman). At some stage when I was a kid I also had a Robin costume ... A nice pair of green underwear and a yellow shirt and red cape."

DEFINITELY FAMOUS AND ALMOST AWARD-WORTHY

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

On a recent episode of 30 Rock Tracy Jordan joked that he made a North Korean propaganda film directed by Kim Jong-Il rather than appear in a Kate Hudson film. It was a funny joke on a show known for its irreverent take on celebrities but like all good jokes there's a hint of truth to it.

Of course Hudson is still a popular actress; capable of headlining any Hollywood rom-com, but this is more a question how an Oscar winning actress who once said, "I'm not a big fan of romantic comedies," ended up with a CV littered with toxic titles like Fool's Gold, My Best Friend's Girl and Bride Wars?

It's not all bad news in Kate's career, however. This weekend she is firmly rooted in rom-com fluff land with Something Borrowed, but lately there have been signs that she's making some effort to stretch her comfort zone.

Cinema Italiano, her exuberantly fluffy all-singing-all-dancing tribute to 1960's pop music and style, was one of the best things about Nine, the musical version of Federico Fellini's classic 8 ½, and The Killer Inside Me, a violent, hardboiled crime story are steps in the right direction, but they're baby steps.

I'd like to see Kate stretch in that way. Watch Almost Famous again and see the heartbreaking pathos she brings to every frame of that movie. That's the stuff careers and legends are built on and she has the talent and the know-how to give us more of that.

STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

2 scene

Scene in brief

Zach Galifianakis leads the 15th annual Webby Awards with four awards for his Between Two Ferns With Zach Galifianakis Web series.

Galifianakis' irreverent interview show won best web personality, best comedy short and best online variety show.

Lisa Kudrow won two awards for her Web Therapy series. Arcade Fire's innovative The Wilderness Downtown music video also won two awards.

Justin Bieber took the People's Voice award for best comedy video for his April Fool's takeover of FunnyOrDie.com as Bieber or Die.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Book of Mormon gets a leading 14 Tony Award nominations; The Scottsboro Boys gets 12.

Royal visit to Hollywood?

Looks like William and Kate will drop by to see the Beckham clan

Prince William and his new wife may be heading to Hollywood, according to royal family expert Andrew Morton.

"Royal aides have penciled in a two day visit to Hollywood at the end of their tour of Canada, which takes place in late June and early July," Morton reports.

Morton says it's likely that royal wedding guests David and Victoria Beckham would be involved in the L.A. visit.

METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rob Lowe

Sheen rejects offer from Rob Lowe

Rob Lowe, who himself has been sober for 21 years, says he's offered help to longtime friend Charlie Sheen, but the offer wasn't exactly well-received. "I love Charlie deeply, always have. I've always wanted him to be healthy, happy and together. But he's doing it his way for better or worse," Lowe tells Popeater. "I say, 'Charlie come my way.' ... To put it mildly, he's not interested." METRO

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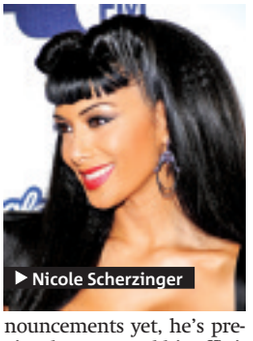
Looks like Pussycat Doll has X Factor

While there's still no word from Simon Cowell on the list of judges for the U.S. edition of the X Factor, Pussycat Dolls singer Nicole Scherzinger is reportedly set to be the host of the new show, according to People magazine.

Scherzinger has some experience with the franchise, as she was a guest judge on the British version last year. While Cowell hasn't made any official announcements yet, he's previously expressed his affinity for Scherzinger: "I absolutely adore her. She's gorgeous and ruthlessly ambitious," he said. METRO



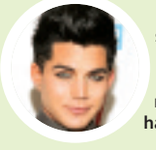
▶ Nicole Scherzinger

Celebrity tweets

@lilyroseallen

"I just made a kickass chocolate mousse cake, in preparation for my local baking competition."

@adamlambert



"I shaved. Y'all can relax now. Haha"

@jimmykimmel

"I really hope bin laden didn't get reincarnated as one of Mariah Carey's babies."

Driving raps catch up with Flavor Flav

After being pulled over for a routine traffic violation, rapper Flavor Flav found himself behind bars in Las Vegas over the weekend, according to TMZ.

Police discovered the former Public Enemy front-man had four warrants out for his arrest for previous infractions, including a parking violation, driving without proof of insurance and two cases of driving without a license.

METRO

Wedding will have to weight

Jessica Simpson is excited about marrying fiancé Eric Johnson, but she reportedly won't do it until she's dropped a few more pounds, according to Hollyscoop.

"Jess and Eric are happier than ever and enjoying a little too much of the good life," a source says. "They were hoping for an early summer wedding, but pushed it back so they both have a chance to shed extra pounds."

The source explains that Simpson has already lost 20 pounds thanks to a strict diet and workout regimen, but she's still not comfortable being in a wedding dress and wants to drop another 20 pounds.

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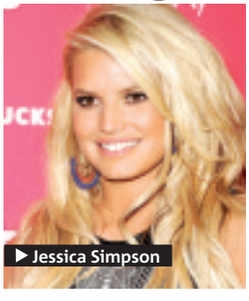

▶ Jessica Simpson

Sudeikis: Bummed over mommy track

While pregnant January Jones is keeping mum on the identity of her baby's father, her desire to start a family is reportedly what hastened the end of her relationship with Saturday Night Live star Jason Sudeikis, according to Us Weekly.

"Jason was bummed out she was on the mommy track," a source says.

The couple called things off in January, and the source doubts Sudeikis is the father.

"If Jason were the dad, he'd step it up."

METRO

JANINE FALCON/METRO

▶ Relax in a hammock at the Excellence Playa Mujeres, in the Mayan Riviera in Mexico.

A girls getaway to Mexico

Not all resorts are equal — some offer that something extra special to give you a relaxing vacation Everything you need for a girls holiday

JANINE FALCON
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Some people can relax quickly by hopping a flight to a random all-inclusive beach vacation. Others, I found out on a recent girls' getaway trip to Cancun and the Riviera Maya, need a few extras to kickstart the decompression.

Making Yourself a Priority

If, like me, you tense up at the thought of check-in crowds and crammed-together charter seating, consider an upgrade that streamlines the travel process.

Transat Holiday's Options Plus ensured our group priority boarding, roomy up-front seats in which work-stiff shoulders could relax immediately, priority unloading of our luggage when we landed, and pronto transportation to our hotel via private vehicle.

The Luxe Life

Nothing sets a relaxation mood faster than complimentary chilled champagne and fresh fruit in an airy room with overstuffed cushions and a plushly appointed bed.

Welcome to the Excellence Playa Mujeres in Cancun, Mexico. This is a five-star hotel akin to New York five-star, only on a much better beach.

Services at Aiile, the adult-only hotel's impressive spa, banish the remnants of work-related fatigue and nine restaurants offer fare worthy of the term gourmet.

Keep it coming

At the Royal Hideaway in Riviera Maya, meandering paths branch off to a number of cheerful two-storey Colonial-style villas with open centre courtyards.

Skilled spa therapists again reduce us to mellow Jell-O. Outside, the atmosphere has a bit more of a party vibe than the Excellence Playa Mujeres.

A buff instructor encourages water-aerobics participation; we join in and enjoy snacks and drinks. This is the life.

For the boys

- **Workouts** At the resorts in Transat Holiday's Luxury Collection, there's plenty of stuff for dudes to do while you enjoy quality girly time. Well-equipped hotel gyms offer workouts.
- **Sports.** If the beach is calling, volleyball nets stand at the ready for a game, and rows of jet-skis gleam in the sunlight, as do colourful lineups of kayaks, and sailboats. Parasailing, windsurfing, deep-sea diving or snorkeling are also options. At the Excellence Playa Mujeres, a gorgeous 18-hole signature course awaits.

3 life

Travel in brief

Whale watching companies are predicting a successful season this year in the Strait of Georgia after numerous orca sightings in recent weeks. The whale watching season kicked off April 1 and runs until October.
On the web: vancouverwhalewatch.com and seabreezeadventures.ca
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travelling to run: Marathoners' vacation plans often tied to location of next race

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Bay of Fundy, a unique wonder

With the highest tides in the world, there are plenty of exciting activities and sights for tourists

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ There are 12 species of whales in the Bay of Fundy.

A lot has been written about Atlantic Canada's Bay of Fundy since it was named one of the top 28 finalists in the global New7Wonders of Nature campaign, but lesser known is the multitude of opportunities the bay offers to tourists.

There's sightseeing, hiking, fossil hunting, boating, whale watching, tidal bore rafting, fishing, camping and, of course, enjoying the variety of delicious seafood.

The 270-kilometre-long Bay of Fundy is bordered by the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and features the world's highest tides.

More than 100 billion tonnes of seawater flow in and out of the bay during each tide cycle, resulting in dramatic changes along the shoreline.

In places like Hopewell Cape, N.B., you can go kayaking, and just six hours later be walking on the ocean floor.

"If the tides are that high, they're also that low, so they go out several kilometres in several locations around the bay," said Terri McCulloch, executive director of Bay of Fundy Tourism.

"There is an opportunity for people of all ages to explore the ocean floor at low tide."

McCulloch recommends Alma Beach and numerous places along the Fundy Trail in New Brunswick, as well as the Parrsboro area in Nova Scotia as places to safely walk on the ocean floor when the tide is out.

The Fundy Trail — which runs between St. Martin's, N.B., and Fundy National Park — offers visitors lots of opportunities to experience the bay from scenic vistas, as well as excellent driving, biking and hiking routes.

In St. Martin's you can see the caves that have been carved into the cliffs by the tides. Here there are a number of quaint bed-and-breakfasts, and a number of places that boast the best seafood chowder — a claim you'll hear in many places around the bay.

Speaking of food, there's never a lack of fresh lobster, clams or mussels to feast on anywhere on the New Brunswick or Nova Scotia sides of the bay. Smoked salmon is another delicacy the bay is known for.

If viewing marine life is more your fancy, there are many whale watching companies that offer tours in the outer areas of the bay — particularly between Grand Manan Island and St. Andrews, N.B.

"We have 12 species of whales in the bay," McCulloch said. "The right whales are probably best known because they are an endangered species and we are the summer feeding habitat for those whales."

Porpoises and seals are also plentiful in the outer bay, and passengers taking the ferry ride to Grand Manan are almost guaranteed to see a variety of sea life.

"Seeing the whales is something that has meant a lot to us as a family," said New Brunswick Premier David Alward. "It is very much a part of who we are."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Travel Jun 14 - Jun 22/ts — + taxes & fees $501

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Travel May 8 - May 16/ts — + taxes & fees $463

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Travel May 17 - May 31/ca — + taxes & fees $436

Canada

Niagara Falls
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$59◊
Great Wolf Lodge — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES family suite accom with waterpark pass. Price per person based on a family of 4. Travel Jun 1 - 30/ggv.

Muskoka Family Special, Victoria Day Weekend, 2 Nights 4-Star $91◊
Pinestone Resort — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in the Haliburton Highlands. Departs May 20/ggv. ADD 2 day economy car rental with unlimited mileage for $15 per day.

Niagara on the Lake
Mother's Day Weekend, 2 Nights $264
Hilton Garden Inn — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom near sights and attractions. Departs May 6/ggv. ADD winery tour for $16. UPGRADE to 4-star Pillar and Post for $32 per night.

Nova Scotia
Air + 7-Day Car + First Night 4-Star $419
Delta Halifax — + taxes & fees $149
INCLUDES first night Halifax accom and 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage. Departs Aug 21/ggv/dl.

Europe

London
Air + First 2 Nights
$319
President Hotel — + taxes & fees $522
INCLUDES central accom near public transport. Departs May 24/vat/ts. ADD 2-day sightseeing pass from $93.

United Kingdom
Air + 8-Day Car $389
No hotel — + taxes & fees $522
INCLUDES air into Glasgow return from London, unlimited mileage car rental. Departs Jun 6/aeu/ts. ADD 2 nights Express by Holiday Inn Glasgow 3-star for $64 per night.

Germany Air + First 2 Nights 4-Star $395
Movenpick Hotel Frankfurt City — + taxes & fees $502
INCLUDES air into Frankfurt, return from Munich and 2 nights central Frankfurt accom with breakfast. Departs Jun 6/thn/ts. ADD 3-day German rail pass for $236.

Paris Air + 7 Nights $859
Mercure Gobelins — + taxes & fees $474
INCLUDES Latin Quarter accom. Departs Sep 19/vat/ts. ADD Guided Visit Louvre Walking Tour for $73.

USA

Orlando Family Special
Air + 7 Nights
$95◊
Champions World Resort — + taxes & fees $277
INCLUDES accom close to theme parks. Departs Jun 2/ggv/ts. BONUS complimentary shuttle service to theme parks. UPGRADE to 4-star Mona Lisa Suites Hotel for $21 per night. Pricing is per person based on 4.

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights $395
Imperial Palace — + taxes & fees $307
INCLUDES accom on the strip. Departs Jul 3/swg. UPGRADE to 4-star Luxor Hotel from $8 per night.

Boston Air + 2 Nights 4-Star $499
Omni Parker House — + taxes & fees $126
INCLUDES Beacon Hill accom near the Boston Common. Travel Jun 10/ggv/dl.

New York Air + 3 Nights $549
Gershwin — + taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES chelsea accom near Empire State Building. Departs Aug 19/ggv/aa. UPGRADE to Central Park 4-star for $22 per night.

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The fastest way to creative creations

The panini press does more than make sandwiches It creates delicious (and quick) appetizers and desserts

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Countertop Napoleon is made in four simple steps.

The panini press is most often used to make pressed sandwiches.

Now these user-friendly appliances are being employed to create creative appetizers and desserts that look as impressive as they taste.

You can buy an electric panini press for as little as $40, or as much $300; the models around $100 often offer the most versatility at the best price point.

Most of the clam-shaped devices have ridges (though some are flat and griddle-like) and heat up on both the top and bottom grill plates, so they cook things really fast.

Countertop Napoleons

Who knew a panini press and a package of frozen puff pastry could be combined to create such a light and elegant dessert?

Best yet, the whole thing comes together in little time and with even less mess. You simply thaw the puff pastry (available in the grocer's freezer section), cut it into squares, then throw it on the panini press. Cooking the pastry on a panini press makes for perfectly golden, crisp and gently puffed flaky layers.

Once your pastry layers are cooked, you layer them with whipped cream (you can use purchased if you want to make this dish even faster and easier) and fresh berries.

The result is a dessert to rival restaurant offerings.

Preparation:

1. Heat a panini press or countertop grill.
2. Cut each sheet of puff pastry into nine 3-by-3-inch (7.5-by-7.5-cm) squares. Working in batches, to fit your press at once, cook pastry squares with the cover set gently down on them 3 to 4 minutes or until lightly browned and cooked through. Transfer squares to plate to cool; set aside.
3. In bowl, using electric mixer, whip cream until stiff peaks form. Fold in sour cream, orange marmalade and honey.
4. Spread layer of whipped cream over 6 of the pastry squares. Top each with berries, then another square of pastry. Repeat with another layer of whipped cream, fruit and a third pastry square. Finish Napoleon with a final layer of cream, then fruit. Dust with icing sugar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg (450 g) frozen butter puff pastry sheets, thawed
- 1 cup (250 mL) 35% whipping cream
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) orange marmalade
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) honey
- 12 oz (340 g) fresh raspberries
- Icing sugar

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Small start-ups offer opportunity

STUDENT VOICE

AMIRA DHALLA
TALENTEGG.CA

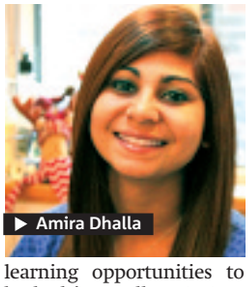
Having always had a flair for marketing, I went into university thinking I knew exactly what I wanted to do when I graduated: work for a consumer packaged goods (CPG) company. While completing my degree in business at Wilfrid Laurier University, I was able to partake in the co-op program that allowed me to gain real world experience.

I was fortunate to get placements at Disney Consumer Products and Unilever, both great CPG companies. Though I loved the brands and products that I worked on, I never felt in control of my projects and I found that myself and my ideas often got lost.

It was my third co-op term at QuickPlay Media that really opened my eyes to the start-up environment. I excelled in the small environment and felt like I was contributing to the company's bottom line.

I grew up believing that the more popular the brand and the company, the better the opportunity to learn and succeed. However, through my co-op experiences, I learned that there are equal, if not greater, learning opportunities to be had in smaller, start-up companies.

SUBMITTED



Where Amira is now

I am currently working as a Community Manager at My City Lives (mycitylives.com), a digital platform for individuals to share stories and experiences about their city through videos.

I am very passionate about Toronto and, in my job, I am able to help showcase why my city and the people are great. I love my job and I'm thankful to all my previous experiences that have led me to where I am today.

Key take-aways from Amira's school-to-work transition

- Take advantage of internship and co-op programs offered by your school.
- Pay attention to how you feel about the style of work you're expected to do and ask yourself if it's your ideal work environment.

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Lightning strikes again

- Two late goals have Capitals on the verge of being knocked out
- Game 4 is tonight in Tampa

Steven Stamkos and Ryan Malone scored 24 seconds apart in the third period and the streaking Tampa Bay Lightning beat Washington 4-3 to push the top-seeded Capitals to the brink of elimination in the Eastern Conference semifinals last night.

After winning twice in Washington, the Lightning returned home and rallied to take a commanding 3-0 series lead. Tampa Bay can advance to the conference finals with a victory at home tonight in Game 4.

Vincent Lecavalier and Sean Bergenheim also scored for the fifth-seeded Lightning, whose sixth straight post-season win gave them a commanding lead in the best-of-seven series. Tampa Bay hasn't lost since falling into a 3-1 hole against Pittsburgh in the first round.

Alex Ovechkin had a power-play goal and an assist for Washington, which led 3-2 heading into third period after Mike Knuble, John Carlson and Ovechkin scored in the second.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIGHTNING	CAPITALS
4	3

JOHN RAOUX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Eric Brewer makes a move to get past Washington's Alex Ovechkin.

Coyotes

The NHL has exercised its option to take $25 million US from the City of Glendale to cover losses by the Phoenix Coyotes this season.

- The city had placed the money in escrow a year ago at the NHL's insistence to cover such losses if the sale of the team had not gone through by the end of this season.
- The NHL bought the team out of bankruptcy in September 2009 with the intention of finding a buyer to keep the team in Arizona.
- A proposed sale has been stalled by the threat of a lawsuit by the Goldwater Institute.

Bulls' Rose is NBA's youngest ever MVP

The NBA has made it official: Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose is the MVP.

Rose officially became the NBA's youngest MVP yesterday. He joins Michael Jordan as the only Bulls players to win the award after a spectacular season in which he led Chicago to the league's best record.

Rose, 22, got 113 first-place votes from a panel of media voters. Orlando's Dwight Howard finished second and Miami's LeBron James was third

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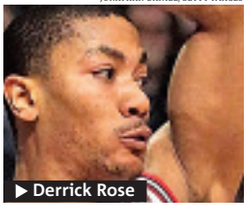
JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Derrick Rose

Sports in brief

Lions cut loose Yonus Davis

CFL. The B.C. Lions have terminated the CFL contract of kick-return specialist Yonus Davis, who is facing drug charges in California.

Davis was the West Division finalist last season for the CFL's outstanding special teams player.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court grants NFL request

NFL. A federal appeals court in the U.S. agreed yesterday to fast track the NFL's request to put its labour lockout in place until a new deal is finally worked out.

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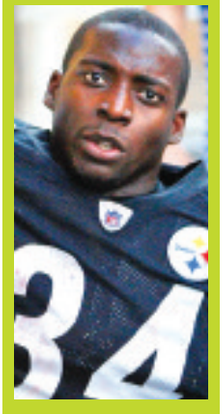
4 sports

Quoted



"What kind of person celebrates death? It's amazing how people can HATE a man they have never even heard speak. We've only heard one side..."

A TWEET FROM PITTSBUGH STEELERS RUNNING BACK RASHARD MENDENHALL ABOUT THE REACTION TO OSAMA BIN LADEN. MENDENHALL WENT ON TO QUESTION THE EVENTS OF SEPT. 11, 2001, WRITING "I JUST HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING A PLANE COULD TAKE A SKYSCRAPER DOWN DEMOLITION."

5 drive

Bumper

On the TL's behind, there's a new bumper with built-in reflectors along with fresh taillights, trunk-lid trim and exhaust outlets.

Besides the front, the rest of the TL's physical presence remains pretty much static, save for a new selection of standard and optional multi-spoke wheels.

746589

Interior

Further refinements can be found inside the passenger area with upgraded trim, available ventilated front seats and an optional voice-recognition sound system that can store up to 3,500 songs on a 15-gigabyte hard drive.

As usual, the TL, even in base form, arrives as a well-turned-out vehicle, but there are a number of significant extra-cost features on the menu. The Technology Package includes a navigation system with traffic and weather updates, 440-watt ELS-brand sound system, premium leather-covered seats and keyless push-button start.

Engine

Continuing on is the base 280-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 (which sports new friction-reducing pistons for 2012) and the optional 305-horsepower 3.7-litre V6.

However, Acura has swapped out the previous standard five-speed automatic transmission for a six-speed. The name of the game here is fuel economy and Acura reports that the 3.5 is now rated at 10.4 l/100 km in the city and 6.8 on the highway.

By comparison

Cadillac CTS sedan
Base price: $38,600
Good-looking car has put Caddy back on the map. 556-hp CTS-V impresses.

Lincoln MKZ
Base price: $40,000
Ford Fusion-based model offers AWD plus very thrifty hybrid version.

Lexus ES 350
Base price: $43,000
Lots of standard content fitted on ES, along with an arms-length option list.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

▶ After a daring redesign for the 2009 model year, Acura clawed back the more controversial styling elements, such as the some-would-say-bizarre rear finish panel on the trunk. If you don't know what we're talking about, then the design change worked.

New nose is good news

Staying a step or two ahead of the competition can be a risky move, especially if you manufacture cars for a living.

Sign off on a decidedly different design and the distance between success and failure can be just a nip, tuck, or crease away.

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Take the TL, for example. Acura's sporty sedan has always ranked high with buyers for its combination of spaciousness, styling and performance, all at an attractive price point.

However, the car's 2009-model-year makeover for the upscale-Honda-division's top-selling sedan garnered less-than-favourable reviews, particularly for the oddly-shaped, shield-like grille and a bumper that resembled a ship's prow.

So, for the 2012 model year, the stylists have taken a scalpel to that bit of frontal daring-do and also completed numerous other modifications throughout the vehicle.

On the road, the TL, which starts at about $41,400 including destination charges, rides and drives pretty much like the previous edition and exhibits the same excellent road manners and interior refinement that has made it such a popular choice over the years.

Now with a host of subtle, but significant, improvements in design and content, the TL will no doubt have broader appeal.

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DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF EXPERIENCE

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

My dear mother turned 80 last Saturday. On our way to the birthday bash, I caught myself thinking that she might not show up for her own party.

Because a few weeks earlier she flunked the written "multiple choice" test all Ontario drivers must pass if they want to continue driving after they hit 80 years of age.

After the test, a driver examiner came out to talk with her, and subsequently decided that if she wanted to keep her license, she would not only need to try the written test again and pass it, but also pass an actual driving test.

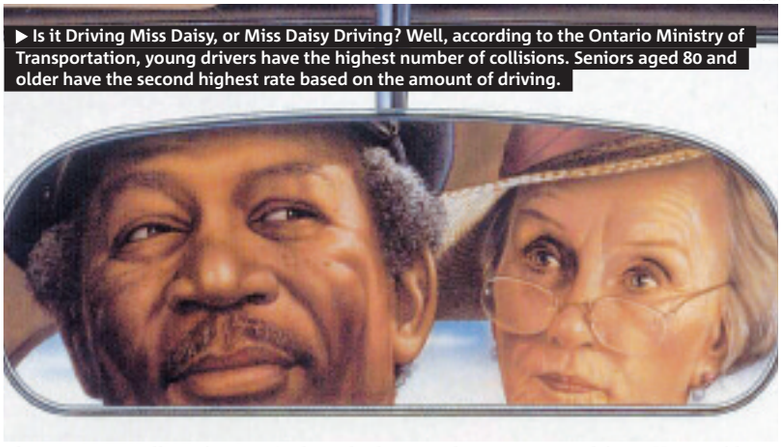
No thanks, said my mom, I'm done.

So Saturday was not only her 80th birthday, but also the last day she would ever again hold a valid driver's license.

So I half-pictured her suddenly deciding to blow the party off, in favour of getting behind the wheel of her 2004 Hyundai four-door Accent, and heading off for one last monumental road trip, possibly to Vegas, possibly picking up an assortment of hitchhikers along the way.

Turned out she was game for the party, and actually not too melancholy about re-entering another non-driving phase of her life.

HANDOUT



▶ Is it Driving Miss Daisy, or Miss Daisy Driving? Well, according to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, young drivers have the highest number of collisions. Seniors aged 80 and older have the second highest rate based on the amount of driving.

Her first non-driving phase was actually quite a stretch. She only started to drive the year after my father died. He died at 50.

Mom got her license at 50.

My brother and I taught her, first taking her where our father first taught us — the cemetery. With its little-used network of mini streets, the cemetery was a perfect training course. And we had to go there a lot anyway, so it was convenient, though too emotionally busy at the time for my taste.

My father was a natural, confident, and graceful driver. My mother is the other kind.

But she persevered and practiced and got her license on the first try. She evolved into a pretty decent driver. Her accidents were mostly minor in nature.

In retrospect, she should have developed a better technique for backing up.

Generally, she just swiveled her head about five degrees in either direction, pretended to look at the side mirrors, then stared straight at the rear-view mirror, commenced reversing, and hoped for the best.

She lives in the suburbs. Everyone, including me, is encouraging her to hire cabs whenever she feels like getting out — and not just for emergencies.

But it will be tough going for a while. She grew up in a country and in an era where they boiled a lot of potato soup. Jumping into a cab, just to get out of the house, will not feel entirely natural.

Her flexibility and freedom and range of social interaction have all diminished somewhat.

But that's the way it is… Not everybody should be driving well into old age, and she's of that group.

Just so happens our daughter, Amelia, turns 16 later this year and is aching to get her license.

She asked "Oma" if she could borrow the Driver's Handbook.

"It's yours," said Oma. Just saved $14.95 plus HST.

Patient shopping is crucial for this used Cadillac

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

A pioneering icon of the Luxury SUV scene, Cadillac's Escalade launched in its second generation for the 2002 model year.

Featuring GM truck-frame construction, massive size and enough chrome bling to deck out a rap group, this humongous, comfortable and stylish rig was a hit with shoppers from various walks.

Of course, Escalade isn't the cheapest way to get you and yours around, new or used — so for many, something a little more modest may make a lot more sense.

If you're interested in a hauler with maximum visibility to passersby, standard V8 power, all the goodies, and plenty of pop-culture relevance, the Escalade has few rivals.

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2002 to 2006 Cadillac Escalade
- **Approximate used price range:** $9,000 to $25,000

Look for a standard six-litre V8 engine with 345 horsepower and a decision-free All Wheel Drive (AWD) system. A four-speed automatic was standard, and goodies included a sunroof, dual-zone climate control and a full leather interior.

Where bells and whistles are concerned, the Escalade won't disappoint. Neither will selection. Escalade was available in standard, extended-length ESV and pickup-based EXT variants.

Be sure to have any Escalade you're considering from this generation inspected by a mechanic on a hoist for signs of oil leakage from the axles, differential, AWD transfer case and engine. If there's any leakage present, bad seals may be to blame.

Double check for proper operation of any and all interior features, including all windows, locks, the sunroof, the ONStar system, navigation and audio systems, and the climate control. Repairing or replacing any of these systems will be expensive — so be sure they're all working properly. Due to the complexity of the Escalade's various systems, shoppers are advised to purchase from a certified used Cadillac dealer and have a pre-purchase inspection carried out for extra peace of mind.

The Verdict

Where luxury and styling are concerned, the Escalade hits the mark as a used SUV buy. Shop patiently, have an inspection, and opt for any extra warranty coverage that might be available — just to be safe.

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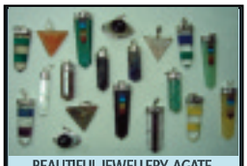
Merchandise for Sale



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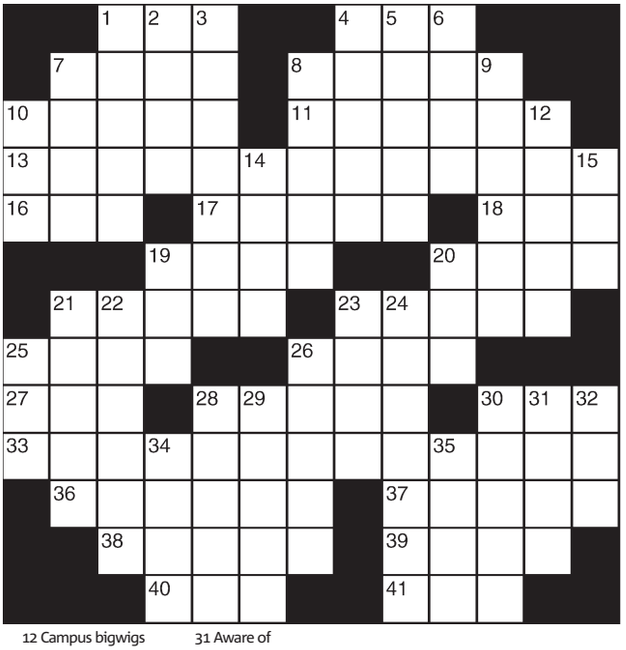

Across

1 Commercials
4 "Doo" follower
7 First victim
8 Acrylic fiber
10 Scent
11 Wallowed (in)
13 Sofa, recliner, ottoman, etc.
16 New Guinea port
17 Antimacassar
18 Spotted, a la Tweety
19 Intend
20 Arm bone
21 Cricket, for one
23 Performs high-tech surgery
25 Sonic —
26 Scoff
27 Elev.
28 Ladd and Alda
30 Shemp's brother
33 Guesswork
36 Jog sans togs
37 Gambling game
38 Surpass
39 Kill a bill
40 French possessive
41 English cathedral city

Down

1 Overhead
2 Actress Moore
3 Smear tactics
4 Slobber
5 Metallic blend
6 Actress Celeste
7 Met melody
8 Utah politico Hatch
9 Get snug and cozy
10 The whole enchilada
12 Campus bigwigs
14 Grownup kid
15 Old airline initials
19 Mid-May honoree
20 Work with
21 Cobbler's supply
22 Spud
23 Chain part
24 Exculpate
25 Evil
26 "King of Pop," in headlines
28 Mountain ridge
29 Begins
30 Thurber's dreamer Walter
31 Aware of
32 Id counterpart
34 Tom-tom, e.g.
35 Christmas refrain

▶ Yesterday's answer

A	C	N	E	■	C	I	D	■	M	U	F	F
D	R	A	G	■	D	N	A	■	O	S	L	O
D	O	N	G	■	R	O	B	I	N	S	O	N
S	W	A	N	S	O	N	■	B	A	R	E	D
■	■	■	O	H	M	■	V	I	M	■	■	■
G	O	R	G	E	■	M	A	D	I	S	O	N
A	B	A	■	■	J	E	T	■	■	A	R	E
S	I	M	P	S	O	N	■	L	U	C	R	E
■	■	■	O	P	T	■	P	A	P	■	■	■
S	T	A	I	R	■	J	A	C	K	S	O	N
T	E	N	N	Y	S	O	N	■	E	C	R	U
A	L	O	T	■	E	K	E	■	E	A	S	T
Y	E	N	S	■	E	E	L	■	P	R	O	S

Sudoku

4		5				9		1
	8	9	4		1	2	3	
7								4
			1		6			
	6			2			4	
			8		3			
9								5
	4	7	5		8	1	9	
8		1				3		2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	1	5	9	8	6	3	4	7
3	7	8	4	5	2	9	6	1
6	9	4	1	7	3	8	2	5
7	8	9	5	1	8	4	3	2
8	2	1	3	4	9	5	7	6
4	5	3	6	2	7	1	9	8
5	3	2	8	6	4	7	1	9
1	4	6	7	9	5	2	8	3
9	8	7	2	3	1	6	5	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Q,
Sorry hon. I love my girl. She deserves my heart and has been there for 3 yrs now, we are going to grow old together. Goodbye & good luck. **FROM A**

My Crush,
I would like to tell you what you know already, hold your hand and know that u love me as much as i do. But its complicated when the fear of having ur heart broken is stronger than you. Therefore, reassure me and give me a chance and i promise you that your heart will be safe with me
From **VANESSA**

Nadia, Your smile is my sunrise, your kiss is my sunset. Thank you for being the most wonderful woman,friend,mother,wife and companion.Thank you for standing by me. I love you. Your husband **JORGE**

Today 12°/3° Variable
Thursday 15°/8° Sunny
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 You need to make changes in the way you use your resources.
♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 The planets in their courses will make it easy for you to excel over the next few days.
♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 No matter how bad things might seem at the moment, they will get better very soon.
♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 Even if things go wrong today, it won't stop you from believing that your life is blessed. It is.
♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug.23 Don't do things just to impress others. Do things that mean something to you personally.
♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Get away from your usual environment for a while. The world is yours to explore.
♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you don't do something about overspending, the consequences could be dire.
♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You won't get far under your own steam today, so ask for help.
♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Make sure you're on top of what you have to do and that you do an excellent job of it.
♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Focus on the one aim that means more than anything.
♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 The only way out of your predicament is to identify your problem and do something.
♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Shout if you have to. Don't let others drown out your voice.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEE JIN-MAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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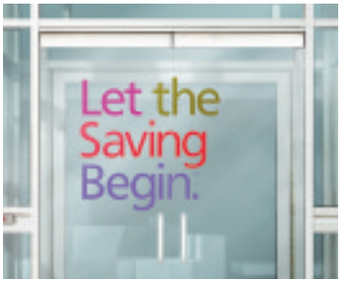

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